

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 9, 2004.

All of the points raised by the Examiner are addressed herein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1-21 remain in the application after this amendment is entered.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 6, and 9 are objected to for certain informalities associated with proper antecedent basis.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,807,259 to Yamanaka et al. (Yamanaka).

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for obviousness over Yamanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,249 to Shimoda et al. (Shimoda).

Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,351 to Lackman et al. (Lackman).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,302 to Einbinder et al. (Einbinder).

Claims 5, 9, and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Yamanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,535,217 to Cheung et al. (Cheung).

The Non-Art Objections

Informalities in Claims 1, 6, and 9 Have Been Corrected.

In claim 1, the Examiner suggested that "discrete interrupt signal" be changed to "discrete clock synchronization interrupt signal" in order to properly correspond with the antecedent basis. As amended, claim 1 now identifies "discrete clock synchronization interrupt signal" as suggested by the Examiner.

In claim 6, the Examiner suggested that "clock synchronization interrupt signal" and "interrupt signal" be changed to "discrete clock synchronization interrupt signal." As amended, claim 6 recites "discrete clock synchronization interrupt signal" as suggested by the Examiner.

In claim 9, the Examiner suggested that "the resource and the controller" be

changed to “the resources and the controller.” As amended, claim 9 recites “the resources and the controller” as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 13, 15, and 21 have been amended like claim 1 in order to show consistent use of “discrete clock synchronization interrupt signal” and to properly correspond with the antecedent basis.

The Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 21 Patentably Distinguish Over Yamanaka.

The Examiner indicated that Yamanaka discloses a document processing system because it includes a master station 1 with a typewriter 13 for document processing. However, the master station 1 in Yamanaka is a data transmission control station for a data transmission and receiving system (abstract) rather than a document processing system that independently marks sheets of documents. Moreover, the typewriter 13 records operations of the data transmission system and status changes of slave stations 2, 3 that communicate with the master station 1 (col. 2, lines 15-17 and col. 3, lines 27-30) rather than functioning as a marking engine within a document processing system. Therefore, the applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner because Yamanaka does not disclose a document processing system.

As amended, claim 1 is directed to a document processing system that includes a marking engine, a resource, and a control bus. Claim 1 now recites that the marking engine “marks a sheet to form at least a portion of a document” and the resource “transfers the sheet to the marking engine or receives the sheet from the marking engine.” Notably, Yamanaka does not disclose or fairly suggest a document processing system as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (including claims 3, 6, 7, 10, and 11) are currently in condition for allowance.

As amended, claim 21 is directed to an electrophotographic document processing system, operated in a xerographic environment, that includes a marking engine, a plurality of resources, and electrical wiring. Claim 21 now recites that the marking engine “marks a sheet to form at least a portion of a document” and that “each resource is associated with transfer of the sheet to the marking engine or receipt of the sheet from the marking engine.” Notably, Yamanaka does not disclose or fairly suggest an electrophotographic document processing system as

recited in claim 21. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 21 is currently in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 Patentably Distinguishes Over the Combination of Yamanaka and Shimoda.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1. Therefore, for the same reasons provided above that distinguish claim 1 from Yamanaka, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is currently in condition for allowance in view of the combination of Yamanaka and Shimoda.

Claims 4 and 8 Patentably Distinguish Over the Combination of Yamanaka and Lackman.

Claim 4 depends from claims 1 and 3. Claim 8 depends from claims 1, 6, and 7. Therefore, for the same reasons provided above that distinguish claim 1 from Yamanaka, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 8 are currently in condition for allowance in view of the combination of Yamanaka and Lackman.

Claim 12 Patentably Distinguishes Over the Combination of Yamanaka and Einbinder.

Claim 12 depends from claims 1 and 6. Therefore, for the same reasons provided above that distinguish claim 1 from Yamanaka, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is currently in condition for allowance in view of the combination of Yamanaka and Einbinder.

Claims 5 and 9 Patentably Distinguish Over the Combination of Yamanaka and Cheung.

Claim 5 depends from claims 1 and 3. Claim 9 depends from claims 1, 6, and 7. Therefore, for the same reasons provided above that distinguish claim 1 from Yamanaka, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 9 are currently in condition for allowance in view of the combination of Yamanaka and Cheung.

Claims 13-20 Patentably Distinguish Over the Combination of Yamanaka and Cheung.

In support of rejection of claim 13, the Examiner relies on Yamanaka

disclosing a document processing system because it discloses a master station 1 that includes a typewriter 13. As discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, the applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner because the master station 1 and the typewriter 13 of Yamanaka do not form a document processing system.

As amended, claim 13 is directed to a method of initially synchronizing a slave clock with a master clock in a document processing system that includes a marking engine, a resource, and electrical connections. Claim 13 now recites that the marking engine "marks a sheet to form at least a portion of a document" and that the resource "transfers the sheet to the marking engine or receives the sheet from the marking engine." Notably, neither Yamanaka nor Cheung disclose or fairly suggest a synchronizing method for a document processing system as recited in claim 13. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 13 and claims dependent thereon (claim 14) are currently in condition for allowance.

As amended, claim 15 is directed to a method of synchronizing a slave clock with a master clock during steady state operation of a document processing system where the document processing system includes a marking engine, a resource, and electrical connections. Claim 15 now recites that the marking engine "marks a sheet to form at least a portion of a document" and that the resource "transfers the sheet to the marking engine or receives the sheet from the marking engine". Notably, neither Yamanaka nor Cheung disclose or fairly suggest the synchronizing method for a document processing system as recited in claim 15. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 15 and claims dependent thereon (claims 16-20) are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-21) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment A. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

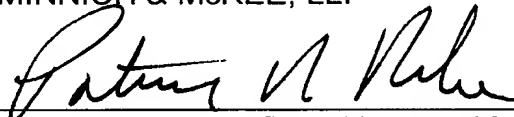
In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Patrick R. Roche, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

Date

9/9/04


Patrick R. Roche, Reg. No. 29,580
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582